

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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SUBJ: PRESIDENT CRITICIZES VICE PRESIDENT

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MVD 2362

1. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY, ON EVENING OF AUGUST 1, MADE PUBLIC HIS RESPONSE TO A PUBLIC STATEMENT (REFTEL MADE BY VICE PRESIDENT SAPELLI ON JULY 28.

2. BORDABERRY REMINED SAPELLI THAT HE (THE VICE PRESIDENT) HAD BEEN NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF THE CLOSING OF THE CONGRESS ON JUNE 27. HE SAID THAT HE NEVER EXPECTED SAPELLI'S REACTION TO COME BACK TO HIM THROUGH THE MEDIA. THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIM AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, BOTH OF WHOM HAD SWORN TO PROTECT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION, WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD MOVED TO FACE A SITUATION IN WHICH BAD POLITICIANS BEING USED BY ENEMIES OF THE NATION WERE DESTROYING THE PRESTIGE OF ITS INSTITUTIONS AND PERHAPS EVEN THE VERY BASIS OF ITS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. THE PRESIDENT AGREED THAT THIS IS THE TIME FOR "REAL AND AUTHENTIC" POLITICAL PARTIES TO SERVE THE PEOPLE WITHOUT

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EXCLUSIONS, DIVISIONS OR QUOTAS IN A GREAT NATIONAL EFFORT,

AN ALLUSION TO SAPELLI'S CALL FOR RESTORATION OF PARTY
ACTIVITY.

3. CONTINUING, BORDABERRY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SAPELLI WAS
CORRECT IN STATING HE HAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH RECENT
EVENTS. IN FACT, THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN
CAREFUL TO KEEP IT THAT WAY IN ORDER TO AVOID THE PROBLEMS THIS
COULD HAVE CREATED FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THAT SAPELLI HAD
THANKED HIM FOR DOING SO. THE PRESIDENT WENT ON, "WE HAVE
COMMITTED NO CRIMES, MR. VICE PRESIDENT. WE ARE SAVING THE
COUNTRY AND TO HELP US IN OUR EFFORTS, ONE MUST BE CONVINCED
ABOUT THEM AS IS THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE". IN VIEW OF THE DIFFER-
ENCES IN OUTLOOK BETWEEN HIM AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, BORDABERRY
TOLD SAPELLI THAT HE WAS NOT THE MAN TO PRESIDE OVER THE
COUNCIL OF STATE.

4. THE PRESIDENT, A DEVOUT CATHOLIC, USED THE LETTER TO
SAPELLI TO RESPOND TO CHURCH CRITICS, PARTICULARLY ARCHBISHOP
PARTELLI, AS WELL. BORDABERRY SAID HE HAD TAKEN THE MORE DIFFI-
CULT OF THE PATHS OPEN TO HIM BUT THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY
ARTIGAS' WORDS, "HOW ACRID IS THE PATH OF VIRTUE, EVEN MORE
SO WHEN IT IS THE NAME OF THE FATHERLAND".

5. COMMENT: A CABINET MINISTER TOLD EMBOFFS ON AUGUST 1
THAT BORDABERRY WAS FURIOUS WITH SAPELLI AND HIS LETTER
REFLECTS IT. NEVERTHELESS, THE LETTER ALSO CARRIED A
MESSIANIC TONE, NO DOUBT REFLECTING THE HEARTFELT CONVICTIONS
OF THE MAN HIMSELF.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT HONESTLY SEES HIMSELF
TAKING THE TOUGHEST OF ALL POSSIBLE PATHS TO "SAVE" THE
NATION. UNFORTUNATELY, WHILE WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT STEP
THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL TAKE NEXT, THE PRESIDENT HAS BROKEN
TIES WITH STILL ANOTHER POLITICIAN-IN THIS CASE, A VERY
CAPABLE PROFESSIONAL WHO OFTEN SERVED THE PRESIDENT WELL
AS A MEDIATOR WHEN CONFLICTS AROSE. FINALLY, REGARDLESS OF
ANY MOVE SAPELLI MIGHT MAKE, THERE IS NO NEW CONSTITUTIONAL
CRISIS. BORDABERRY, NOT SAPELLI, SITS IN THE PALACE AND WILL
CONTINUE TO DO SO UNTIL EITHER DEPOSED BY THE MILITARY OR ON
COMPLETION OF HIS TERM.

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